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ACTION		91		DEPARTMENT OF STATE		P780110-1922	
COM		AF		AIRGRAM		FOR RM USE ONLY	
ARA	ELR	EA		A-17 UNCLASSIFIED			
NEA	CU	INR		HANDLING INDICATOR			
EB	P	IO		TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE			
L	PBC	AIO		INFO: AMEMBASSY CANBERRA, AMCONSIN SYDNEY, AMCONSUL BRISBANE AMCONSUL PERTH, AMEMBASSY TOKYO.			
ASO	COM	FRB		E.O. 11652 : N/A			
INT	LAB	TAR		TAGS: EFIS, AS TOKYO FOR REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE.			
TR	XMB	AIR		FROM : AMCONSUL MELBOURNE DATE: JULY 14, 1978			
ARMY	CIA	NAVY		SUBJECT: FISHING: SOUTH AUSTRALIA STATE GOVERNMENT POLICY ON PENDING 200-MILE FISHING ZONE LIMIT.			
OSD	USA	NSA		REF			
<p>While in Adelaide, capital of the State of South Australia, on a recent VISIT USA travel promotion mission, FSL Senior Commercial Specialist Michael C. Ryssenbeek also called on the Assistant Director (Fisheries) of the South Australian Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to discuss that state's view of expected developments in the local fishing industry when Australia adopts pending legislation establishing its jurisdiction over a 200-mile national fishing zone. This call, made on instructions from the post's Commercial Officer, produced some information which may be of use to the U.S. fishing industry. Enclosure No.1 is a memorandum of the conversation.</p>							
<p>POPPLE</p>							
<p>DEPARTMENT OF STATE</p>							
<p>1978 JUL 20 PM 2 31</p>							
<p>Enclosure: 1. Memorandum of Conversation, Ryssenbeek-Kirkegaard, June 27, 1978, Adelaide S.A.</p>							
<p>UNCLASSIFIED</p>							
<p>FOR DEPT. USE ONLY</p>							
<p>E/C: JCCURRAN (Airgram) E/C: NCB/RYSENBEK (Memcon) E/C: JCCURRAN</p>							
<p>Memcon draft E/C: DMMARSHALL</p>							

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Enclosure No. 1
Melbourne A-17
July 14, 1978.

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: South Australia's Policy on 200-mile Fishing Limit and Opportunities for U.S. Firms for Investment Or Sale of equipment to the S.A. Fishing Industry.

PARTICIPANTS:

Mr. Ian Kirkegaard, Assistant Director (Fisheries), South Australian Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, 18 Alley Street, Millicent, South Australia 5280;
Mr. Michael C. Ryssenbeek, Senior Commercial Specialist American Consulate General, Melbourne.

PLACE: Mr. Kirkegaard's office, Adelaide, S.A.

DATE: June 27, 1978.

The discussion lasted approximately one hour fifteen minutes and was friendly, frank and for a large part the personal opinion of Mr. Kirkegaard, having regard to the many "unknowns" still existing in the future of the S.A. Fisheries industry and the 200-mile fishing limit.

1. South Australian Government (SAG) policy in relation to the Federal Government on the 200-mile limit is that S.A. will continue to manage the present S.A.-based fisheries and activities. The SAG will disengage itself from tuna and deep trawl fisheries and leave the development and management of same to the GOA. However, SAG does expect to be kept informed and consulted by the GOA on its plans and actions.

2. South Australian fishing grounds by tradition have mainly been fished for whiting with some shark and other species. This has resulted in the S.A. fish market being a high value unit market with little elasticity. S.A. Whiting presently brings \$A10.00 per kilogram at wholesale prices.

3. The knowledge of fish types and capacity existing off the S.A. shore up to 200 miles is still very limited. With this in mind, Mr. Kirkegaard does not envisage an immediate explosion of purchases of major capital equipment and processing machinery by the S.A. fishing industry.

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4. The likelihood of the S.A. fishing fleet expanding into the use of 500 tonne and larger vessels in the foreseeable future is remote, according to Mr. Kirkegaard. He bases this belief on the present and foreseeable future resource capability and finance capacity of the S.A. fishing fleet which consists, with few exceptions, of owner-operated boats. However, depending on fishing grounds and catches, there is a possibility that 200-500 tonne boats will be used in the industry over the next five years.

5. With regard to U.S. interest in investment etc., Mr. Kirkegaard pointed out that S.A. presently has several excellent shipyards available (up to 40,000 tonnes capacity) which are underutilized or in some cases, lying idle. In addition, he feels that should exploitation of the S.A. fishing grounds or those in the vicinity develop rapidly, the S.A. yards would be well placed for taking on ship repair and service work. In the fish processing and handling area, S.A. presently has some capacity which could be discussed better with officials of the South Australian Fishermen's Cooperative Limited (SAFCOL) 30-46 Wright Street, Adelaide, S.A. 5000. This is reputedly Australia's largest fishing cooperative.

6. On inquiries: (A) U.S. firms interested in S.A. fish catching and handling up to the first point of sale should contact Mr. Kirkegaard direct at the South Australian Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, 18 Alleen Street, Millicent S.A. 5280; (B) U.S. Firms interested in machinery, navigation systems, handling equipment, etc., should contact Mr. Richard Stevens, Executive Officer of the Australian Fishing Industry Council (AFIC) direct at 19 North Terrace, Hackney, S.A. 5067, telephone: (08) 427361.

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